

# Are You Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such emergencies

## Know what to expect

- ✓ Know your area's flood risk—if unsure, call your local Red Cross chapter, emergency management office, or planning and zoning department.
- ✓ If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- ✓ Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information.

## Reduce potential flood damage by—

- ✓ Raising your furnace, water heater, and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- ✓ Consult with a professional for further information if this and other damage reduction measures can be taken.

## Floods can take several hours to days to develop—

- ✓ A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area.
- ✓ A flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

## Flash floods can take only a few minutes to a few hours to develop—

- ✓ A flash flood WATCH means flash flooding is possible in your area.
- ✓ A flash flood WARNING means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

## Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

- ✓ Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- ✓ Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

## Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit containing—

- ✓ First aid kit and essential medications.
- ✓ Canned food and can opener.
- ✓ At least three gallons of water per person.
- ✓ Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- ✓ Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- ✓ Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.
- ✓ Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places... a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

## When a flood WATCH is issued—

- ✓ Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- ✓ Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

## When a flood WARNING is issued—

- ✓ Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

## When a flash flood WATCH is issued—

- ✓ Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

## When a flash flood WARNING is issued—

- ✓ Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- ✓ Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades... they are there for your safety.
- ✓ If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

## Your local contact is:

American Red Cross  
Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter  
1955 Monroe Drive, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324  
Ph. 404.876.3302

Fax: 404.575.3080